

# TreeLink News

**In the works**

*With the leaves coming out, now would be a great time to begin or update your community tree inventory. This is the first of a two-part series about tree inventories. Next month's issue will cover how to conduct an inventory.*

## **CONDUCTING A TREE INVENTORY FOR YOUR COMMUNITY**

A tree inventory provides information for the planning, design, planting, maintenance, and removal of community trees. It provides useful information that can be used to justify starting and managing a tree program. An inventory of a community's trees and planting spaces is a prerequisite for making sound management decisions.

A community which operates its tree program without an inventory may question the need for one. Previous decisions may have been based on traditional rather than an accurate assessment of tree conditions. A tree inventory can quantify the answers to many questions. For example, an inventory can provide the locations of hazardous trees, the number of trees located within the public right-of-way, the value of trees, and the number of available planting sites. In addition, an inventory can help to identify insects or disease problems, pruning needs and budget priorities.

With this information, tree commissions can better plan and prioritize tree removals, maintenance work, and plantings. They can also determine the value of their community's trees, which can help to emphasize the program's importance to community leaders. An inventory can be used to monitor tree conditions and to quickly and accurately answer citizen questions and concerns. Over the years, the changes in a community forest can be seen in the number, age, and species of trees. A well maintained inventory can be used in cases of liability to demonstrate there was no negligence in the inspection or care of public trees. An inventory will also improve the chances of receiving grants and other assistance by documenting the condition of the community forest.

### ***Inventory Process***

The process to develop a tree inventory can be divided into four phases: planning, implementation, application, and maintenance.

#### ***Planning***

- Identify the types of information needed and how that information will be used.
- Assess the availability of computers and software.
- Determine the method of data collection (drive or walk).
- Assess the requirements of labor, equipment, and funding.
- Obtain maps identifying ownership.

#### ***Implementation***

- Conduct training for gathering data.
- Collect data.
- Input and store the data in a computer.

#### ***Application***

- Analyze and use information.
- Establish priorities for tree removal, pruning, and planting.
- Prepare annual work plans and budgets.

#### ***Maintenance***

- Re-inventory the trees to maintain the information at a current level or continue to update the information when permits are issued and tree work is complete.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

Jennifer M. Belcher - Commissioner of Public Lands  
Kaleen Cottingham - Supervisor

*-Adapted from an article in Sylvan Communities-Volume 1, Number 2.*

## In the works (continued)

*"Forests are the lungs of our land,  
purifying the air and giving fresh strength  
to our people."*

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

**TRIVIA:** Each person in the US is responsible for the production of 2.3 tons of carbon dioxide every year. Of that amount, almost one-half is generated from automobiles. How many trees are needed to inhale the carbon dioxide emitted by a single automobile in one year?

(answers upside down below)

## Picks and Shovels

## On the Horizon

**The purpose of the Washington Urban and Community Forestry Program is to assist communities and nonprofit groups in building self-sustaining urban forestry and tree care programs with strong local support.**

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## URBAN FORESTRY CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The 8th National Urban Forest Conference (NUFC) will be held September 17-20, 1997 in Atlanta, GA. The NUFC is a national gathering of urban foresters, tree board members, citizen tree activists, planners, landscape architects and other natural resource professionals. The theme of this year's conference is Cities by Nature's Design.

The Washington Urban and Community Forestry Program will provide up to five scholarships covering 50% of the expenses (up to \$600) for municipal representatives, tree board members or nonprofit group leaders from Washington. This is a great opportunity to learn tips, tools and techniques to better manage the trees in your community. To apply for a scholarship, please fill-out the attached application. The deadline for applications is June 1, 1997. If you have any questions or would like to know what sessions are being offered, please contact tish carr (360)902-1703.

## WASHINGTON DOT AND VOLUNTEERS REFOREST STATE ROUTE 16

On Saturday, March 8, over 200 volunteers (area high school and college students, community groups and service clubs) joined forces with the National Tree Trust, Washington State Department of Transportation, and the Tacoma Rotary Club to plant more than 15,000 trees, shrubs, and ground cover on 10 acres of land along State Route 16. The use of volunteer labor saved taxpayers approximately \$50,000 in installation costs alone.

## WASHINGTON COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL MEETING

The next quarterly meeting for the Washington Community Forestry Council will be on June 12, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Water Resource Center in Vancouver, WA. It will be a joint meeting with the Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Council. It is anticipated that the councils will meet in the morning and then have the joint meeting in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact tish carr at (360)902-1703.

Below is a list of support materials that are available from our office, please call (800)523-8733 or (360)902-1704.

- "Working Trees for Communities" (National Agroforestry Center, USDA Forest Service)
- "Street Trees: A Manual for Municipalities", written by Richard D. Schein. TreeWorks, 526 West Nittany Ave, State College PA 16801. 1993, 398pp., \$50.

### May

- 3-4 Community Tree Steward Workshop, Omak. Contact Teresa Lewis at (509)684-7474.
- 10 Hazard Tree Evaluation Workshop, Spokane. Contact Rich Baker at (509)466-6559.
- 17 ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Eugene OR. Contact PNW ISA at (206)784-1945.

### June

- ProHort Series: Protecting Trees During Construction, University of WA, Seattle (206)685-2590.
- 1 Deadline for National Urban Forest Conference Scholarships. Contact tish carr at (360)902-1703.
- 12 Washington Community Forestry Council meeting at the Water Resource Center in Vancouver, WA from 10:00-3:00. Contact tish carr at (360)902-1703.

### July

- 24-26 Workshop: How to Teach Youth About Trees and Environmental Stewardship, Nebraska City NE. Contact National Arbor Day Foundation at (402)474-5655.